

AN ACT

IN THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

*Codification
District of
Columbia
Official Code*

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To provide, on an temporary basis, grants to accredited District-based colleges and universities that are engaged in the provision of literacy and employment enhancement skills to District residents with a household income of up to 50% of the area median income and who are unemployed or employed less than full-time.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE COUNCIL OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, That this act may be cited as the "Educational Stepladder Temporary Act of 2002".

Note,
§ 38-1001

Sec. 2. Definitions.

For purposes of this act, the term:

(1) "Accredited" means currently accredited by the Middle States Commission on Higher Education.

(2) "Available funds" means WIA and other federal monies.

(3) "District" means the District of Columbia.

(4) "Local Workforce Investment Board" means the District of Columbia Workforce Investment Board created pursuant to the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, approved October 1998 (112 Stat. 939; 29 U.S.C. § 2801, *et seq.*).

(5) "Qualified educational institution" means a District-based accredited college or university.

(6) "WIA" means Title I of the Workforce Investment Act of 1998, approved October 1998 (112 Stat. 939; 29 U.S.C. § 2801, *et seq.*).

Sec. 3. Qualified educational institution.

(a) To be eligible to receive grants under this act, an educational institution shall:

(1) Be a District-based accredited college or university and have employees based in the District; and

(2) Provide, for the purpose of increasing workplace literacy and enhancing adult employment opportunities, the following credit or noncredit courses:

(A) The instruction of English as a second language to adults;

- (B) The enhancement of mathematical and literacy skills;
- (C) The instruction of basic computer skills; or
- (D) Other basic educational skills.

(b) The Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board shall review the applications of educational institutions that apply for grants under this act to ensure that they meet the requirements set forth in subsection (a) of this section.

Sec. 4. Grants for qualified educational institutions.

- (a) The initial grant shall be made before May 1, 2002.
- (b) The purpose of the grant is to provide for the educational services described in section 3(a)(2) to District residents:
 - (1) Whose household income does not exceed 50% of the Washington Metropolitan Statistical Area median income; and
 - (2) Who are either unemployed or employed less than full time.
- (c) The amount of the grants shall not exceed \$3,000 per eligible District resident to be enrolled in a course such as those described in section 3(a)(2).
- (d) Nothing in this act shall be construed to create an entitlement to a grant.

Sec. 5. Criteria for issuance of grants.

- (a) Applications for grants submitted by a qualified educational institution shall be received no later than January 15, 2002.
- (b) The Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board shall solicit applications for grants and may issue grants to qualified educational institutions based on the merits of the qualified educational institution's application. Such grants shall be approved by February 1, 2002, or as soon as administratively possible.
- (c) Qualified educational institutions seeking grants shall submit to the Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board sworn statements and other data as required by the Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board documenting compliance with the criteria and the purpose of the grant. The Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board may audit the statements and may request any information that is deemed necessary to conduct the audit.

Sec. 6. Funding of grant program.

- (a) The Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board may use available funds, including up to \$3 million of WIA funds, or other federal funds that may become available, up to a maximum of \$5 million.
- (b) Funds not expended by a qualified educational institution issued a grant within a time period to be determined by the Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board shall revert to the District.

Sec. 7. Reporting requirement.

The Mayor and the Local Workforce Investment Board shall provide to the Council by December 1, 2002, a report that includes:

- (1) The educational institutions that applied for grants;
- (2) The educational institutions that received grants;
- (3) The eligibility requirements set forth in section 3(a) that each grantee met;

and

(4) The number of District residents who participated in the grants, including courses taken and the number successfully completed.

Sec. 8. Fiscal impact statement.

The Council adopts the attached fiscal impact statement as the fiscal impact statement required by section 602(c)(3) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(3)).

Sec. 9. Effective date.

(a) This act shall take effect following approval by the Mayor (or in the event of veto by the Mayor, action by the Council to override the veto), a 30-day period of Congressional review as provided in section 602(c)(1) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act, approved December 24, 1973 (87 Stat. 813; D.C. Official Code § 1-206.02(c)(1)), and publication in the District of Columbia Register.

(b) This act shall expire on the 225th day after its having taking effect.

Chairman
Council of the District of Columbia

Mayor
District of Columbia